IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a fluid tight coupling between the end portions of coaxially aligned metal pipes, comprising the following steps, performed in sequence:

inserting a metal sleeve into the open ends of each of said metal pipes to be joined;

rolling a groove into an outside diameter of each of said pipes adjacent to but spaced from the open ends of each of said pipes, wherein said groove extends into said sleeve, locking said sleeve in said pipe; and

forming a coupling between said pipes by receiving a generally circular housing having a U-shaped ~~crosssection~~ cross-section including leg portions received within said grooves retaining said pipes in coaxially aligned relation.

2. (Original) The method of forming a fluid tight coupling as defined in Claim 1, wherein said method includes rolling a generally rectangular groove in said outside diameter of each of said pipes and said sleeves.

3. (Original) The method of forming a fluid tight coupling as defined in Claim 1, wherein said method includes inserting a metal sleeve into the open ends of said metal pipes formed of the same metal as said pipes.

4. (Original) The method of forming a fluid tight coupling as defined in Claim 1, wherein said method includes inserting a metal sleeve into the open ends of said metal pipes having a thickness equal to or less than said metal pipes.

5. (Original) The method of forming a fluid tight coupling as defined in Claim 4, wherein said method includes inserting a metal sleeve into the open ends of said metal pipes having a thickness substantially less than said metal pipes.

6. (Original) The method of forming a fluid tight coupling as defined in Claim 1, wherein said method includes inserting a metal sleeve into the open ends of said metal pipes having an outside diameter generally equal to and inside diameter of said pipes forming a press fit.

7. (Original) The method of forming a fluid tight coupling as defined in Claim 1, wherein said method includes cooling said metal sleeve prior to inserting said metal sleeve into said open ends of said metal pipes to reduce the outside diameter of said sleeves and form a press fit.

8. (Original) The method of forming a fluid tight coupling as defined in Claim 1, wherein said method includes heating said metal pipes to increase the inside diameter of said pipes prior to inserting said metal sleeve to form a press fit.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The coupling between opposed ends of coaxially aligned pipes as defined in Claim [[7]]15, wherein said grooves in said ~~pipe~~ pipes and said ~~sleeve~~ sleeves are generally rectangular in ~~crosssection~~ cross-section.

11. (Currently Amended) The coupling between opposed ends of coaxially aligned pipes as defined in Claim [[7]]15, wherein said sleeves are formed of the same metal as said pipes.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

~~14.~~ (Currently Amended) The coupling between opposed ends of coaxially aligned metal pipes as defined in Claim [[7]]15, wherein said pipes and said sleeves are formed of steel. ~~(but not limited to).~~

15. (New) A coupling between opposed adjacent ends of coaxially aligned deformable metal pipes, each pipe having a circular cross-section, comprising:

tubular deformable metal sleeves, each sleeve having a circular cross-section and an outside diameter generally equal to an inside diameter of said pipes, a tubular sleeve press fit into an end of each of said pipes, and each of said tubular sleeves having an end adjacent an end of a pipe;

a channel-shaped groove rolled in an outer surface of each of said pipes and a nested channel-shaped groove in each of said tubular sleeves securely locking a tubular sleeve in each of said pipes; and

a generally circular metal housing having a U-shaped cross-section including a leg portion received within a channel-shaped groove in an outer surface of each of said pipes, retaining said pipes in coaxially aligned relation.

16. (New) The coupling as defined in claim 15, wherein said sleeves have a constant thickness.